

Old Marine Hospital
Charleston, South Carolina

HABS No. 13-10
HABS
S.C.
10-CHAR
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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District No. 13
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
Samuel Lapham, District Officer
42 Broad St. Charleston, S.C.

OLD MARINE HOSPITAL
FRANKLIN STREET
CHARLESTON, S.C.

SURVEY NO. 13-10

1.
S.C.
15-1846
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This building is attributed to Robert Mills. Its precise date of erection is unknown and it is uncertain that Mills was the architect.

In the Bulletin of the University of South Carolina, #77, on Mills, Mr. C. C. Wilson states as follows:

"Mr. Schuyler 'on internal evidence would ascribe to him the Branch Mint at New Orleans,' built in 1835, and states that he certainly built Marine Hospitals in Charleston and New Orleans". The Mr. Schuyler referred to was Mr. Montgomery Schuyler, who in 1910 in "The American Architect" devoted one part of his article on the Greek Revival to Robert Mills.

Mills himself, in his "Statistics", makes only the following reference: "The Marine Hospital is located in the rear of the Medical College, where the sick stranger or poor mariner is taken care of. The expenses of this institution exceed annually 5,700 dollars. The number admitted 296." This would fix the date as prior to 1826 (the time of publication of the "Statistics") but the meager data given would indicate that Mills had not designed this building as in his "Statistics" he greatly expands his remarks when describing the buildings designed by himself.

However, comparison of certain mouldings indicates a similarity to and relationship with those used on the County Records Building, known to be by Mills, and it

may have been by his hand.

This building was in use as a Marine Hospital as late as 1849, as it is so indicated on a map of the city issued in that year.

At some time subsequent to that date it passed into other hands and finally became the property of the Rev. D. J. Jenkins, who converted it into a negro orphanage and reformatory. Under such conditions and use it has suffered great deterioration, much temporary remodeling and sub-division and also passed through a severe fire in the winter of 1932-33. It is still owned by the Rev. Jenkins and used as a negro reformatory school, but has been condemned as unsound since the fire, and may shortly be destroyed.

Sources of information: "Statistics of South Carolina", by Robert Mills, Hurlbut and Lloyd, Charleston, 1826.
Bulletin of the University of South Carolina #77 - Robert Mills, Architect - by C. C. Wilson, Columbia, February, 1919.

Date by Post Officer
approved

[Signature]

District Officer #13

Reviewed 1936, H.C.F.

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OLD MARINE HOSPITAL
20 Franklin Street
Charleston, Charleston County
South Carolina

Owner: Jenkins Colored Orphanage.

Date of Erection: Between 1820 and 1830.

Architect: Robert Mills (?).

Builder:

Present Condition: Fair.

Number of Stories: Three.

Materials of Construction: Brick and wood.

Other Existing Records: See text.

Additional Data: See following pages.